

REMARKS

Applicants and applicants' counsel note with appreciation the allowance of the application on the first action.

Upon review of the allowed application, informalities and ambiguities have been found in the claims. Additionally, it is noted that the original abstract is not in compliance with MPEP §608.01(b) because it is not limited to a single paragraph and because it contains reference numerals. To correct the informalities and ambiguities in the claims, and to bring the abstract into compliance with MPEP §608.01(b), the present Rule 312 amendment is being filed.

Allowed claims 1-5 have been amended to delete therefrom the reference numerals, thereby better confirming the claims to U.S. practice. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to correct an ambiguity concerning the recitation of the balance with hairspring. Claim 1, as allowed, recites two instances of "a balance with hairspring" in lines 7 and 15. However, both instances of "a balance with hairspring" in claim 1 refer to the same "balance with hairspring." To correct this ambiguity, claim 1 has been amended to change "a balance with hairspring" in line 15 to "the balance with hairspring" to clarify that both instances refer to the same

"balance with hairspring." Claims 1-5 have otherwise been amended in minor formal respects to improve the wording and to better conform the claims to U.S. practice.

A new abstract which complies with MPEP §608.01(b) has been substituted for the original abstract. More specifically, the new abstract is limited to a single paragraph within the range of 50 to 150 words and do not contain reference numerals.

Applicants respectfully point out that the revisions to the claims do not alter the scope of the claims and certainly do not affect patentability of the claims. Likewise, the revisions to the claims will not entail undue work on the part of the PTO staff, but the amendments are needed to correct informalities and to ensure that the claims correctly define the subject matter of the invention.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

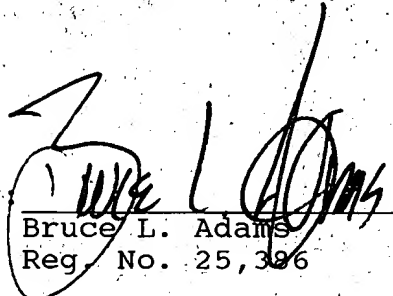
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration
and entry of the amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 17, 2004

Date